

**Barrington School Committee Meeting with Town of Barrington Charter Review Commission,
Barrington Town Council and Barrington Committee on Appropriations
Town Council Chambers, Town Hall
January 27, 2014**

A meeting of the Barrington School Committee with the Town of Barrington Charter Review Commission, Barrington Town Council and the Barrington Committee on Appropriations was held on Monday, January 27, 2014 in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall. The School Committee was called to order by Mrs. Brody at 7:04pm and present were Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea. Mr. Guida arrived at 7:06pm. Mr. Fuller was absent. Mr. Messorre and Mr. Tarro joined the School Committee for the joint meeting.

Charter Review Commission Chair Mr. Jeffrey Brenner informed the School Committee that the Charter Review Commission is charged by the Town Council to take an introspective look to review the scope and charge of the Town Charter every ten years. The Charter Review Commission will provide its rationale for all recommendations to the Town Council in 2014 and the Town Council will make the final decision relative to the identified recommendations of the Charter Review Commission. The Financial Town Meeting served as the focus of the discussion for the joint meeting, specifically should there be a Financial Town Meeting and if so, what suggestions may be made for a change in the process and/or time and day of the week.

Mr. Brenner led the discussion and invited the Committee on Appropriations, School Committee and Town Council to share input relative to their feedback on the Financial Town Meeting. Dr. Dominguez suggested consideration of a different structure for the Financial Town Meeting to accommodate interested residents whose schedules may prevent their participation in person at an evening meeting. Dr. Shea noted that although the Financial Town Meeting is imperfect, he is in favor of the Financial Town Meeting process. Mr. Guida expressed his support for the Financial Town Meeting as an honored New England tradition, yet proposed that the Town Charter be revised to specifically allow for the School Committee and Town Council to submit, present and read at the Financial Town Meeting a statement concerning financial and fiscal matters relative to the respective proposed school and municipal operating budgets. Mrs. Brody expressed support for the Financial Town Meeting and proposed incorporation of the use of technology to expedite efficient meeting management and provide resident voters with anonymity during the execution of votes during the meeting process. Time becomes a factor for residents who attend the Financial Town Meeting when there are multiple counts required to confirm the number of standing and/or voice votes on motions and resolutions. She noted that it was her understanding that municipalities in Rhode Island have pooled resources to invest in clickers that are shared for use during Financial Town Meetings, as long as the Financial Town Meetings are scheduled on different dates.

Members of the Committee on Appropriations, Town Council and Charter Review Commission provided feedback and input relative to the Financial Town Meeting.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded the motion that the School Committee adjourn its meeting at 8:55pm. The motion was approved 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.